



Tailgate Safety Training for Landscaping and Horticultural Services

Agricultural Safety Program, 590 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, OH 43210

Hand Signals for Vehicle Safety

Objective: Identify and use the correct hand signals when working under noisy conditions.

How to Use This Module

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers has adopted 11 uniform hand signals for safety. All workers, including delivery drivers and other workers who are at the job site, should learn the 11 signals and use them. That way, everyone will communicate in the same “language.” For this module:

- Read the information below on hand signals.
- Ask your supervisor to demonstrate each hand signal.
- Practice hand signals while your supervisor observes.
- Find where hand signals are posted in your workplace.
- Review the important points.
- Take the True/False quiz to check your learning.












Background

Hand signals are ideal for communication around noise. Hand signals provide a way to communicate needed information effectively in a noisy environment. All workers should learn and use these signals.

Why Use Hand Signals?

- Hand signals save time.
- Hand signals prevent accidents.
- Hand signals reduce the severity of injuries.
- Hand signals lower the risk of accidental death.
- Hand signals communicate well in noisy environments.

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) has adopted 11 uniform hand signals for safety. The signals help workers communicate in the same “language.” The chart on the next page shows the 11 signals. With each hand signal there are detailed instructions for performing the signal.

<p>COME TO ME</p>  <p>Raise the arm vertically overhead, palm to the front, and rotate in large horizontal circles.</p>	<p>MOVE TOWARD ME</p>  <p>Point toward person(s), vehicle(s), unit(s); beckon by holding the arm horizontally to the front, palm up, and motioning toward the body.</p>	<p>THIS FAR TO GO</p>  <p>Place palms at ear level, facing head, and move laterally inward to indicate remaining distance to go</p>	<p>STOP</p>  <p>Raise the hand upward to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front. Hold that position until the signal is understood.</p>
<p>LOWER EQUIPMENT</p>  <p>Make circular motion with either hand pointing to the ground.</p>	<p>RAISE EQUIPMENT</p>  <p>Make circular motion with ether hand at head level.</p>	<p>START ENGINE</p>  <p>Simulate cranking of vehicles by moving of vehicles by moving arm in circular motion at waist level.</p>	<p>STOP ENGINE</p>  <p>Draw either hand, palm down across the neck in a "throat-cutting motion."</p>
<p>SLOW DOWN</p>  <p>Extend the arm horizontally sideward, palm down, and wave arm downward 45 degree minimum several times, keeping the arm straight. Do not move arm above horizontal.</p>	<p>SPEED UP</p>  <p>Raise the hand to the shoulder, fist closed; thrust the fist upward to the full extent of the arm and back to the shoulder rapidly several times.</p>	<p>MOVE OUT</p>  <p>Face the desired direction of movement; hold the arm extended to the rear; then swing it overhead and forward in the direction of desired movement until it is horizontal palm down.</p>	

Review These Important Points

- Hand signals are an ideal communication tool for noisy situations.
- There are 11 ASAE uniform hand signals.
- Hand signals help save time and prevent accidents.
- Using hand signals could save a life.
- Review each signal with employees.

About These Modules

The author team for the training modules in the landscape and horticultural tailgate training series includes Dee Jepsen, Program Director, Agricultural Safety and Health, Ohio State University Extension; Michael Wonacott, Research Specialist, Vocational Education; Peter Ling, Greenhouse Specialist; and Thomas Bean, Agricultural Safety Specialist. Modules were developed with funding from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Grant Number 46E3-HT09.

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Answer Key: 1 = T, 2 = F, 3 = T, 4 = T, 5 = T.

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Hand Signals for Vehicle Safety

Name _____

True or False?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. To signal to stop, you should raise your hand upward to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front. | T | F |
| 2. Only the owner needs to know the hand signals. | T | F |
| 3. There are 11 uniform ASAE hand signals. | T | F |
| 4. Using the standard hand signals can save time and prevent accidents. | T | F |
| 5. To indicate that the equipment needs to be lowered, make a circular motion with either hand pointing to the ground. | T | F |